ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Water Commissioners, Prudential Committee, Fire Engineers and Treasurer

OF THE

North Easton

VILLAGE DISTRICT

FOR THE

Year Ending April 1st, 1909

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE EASTON BULLETIN

1909

Water Commissioners' Report.

To the citizens of the North Easton Village District:

The Board of Water Commissioners beg to submit herewith the twenty-second annual report of the North Easton Village District Water Works as follows:—

There has been pumped about 45,755,589 gallons, in comparison to 47,500,000 gallons last year, showing a decrease of 1,744,411 gallons.

The financial statement for the past year is as follows:—

NORTH EASTON WATER WORKS.

MARCH 31, 1909.

STATEMENT.

Cash on hand April 1st, 1908	$2,517 14	
Received from faucet service	2,369 50	
Received from Meter service	3,959 17	
Received from sale of meters and mdse.	122 03	
		$8,967 84
Paid for operating expenses	$2,187 13	
" " interest on bonds	2,800 00	

" " repairs	231 77	
" " meters and merchandise	368 68	
" " N. E. Savings Bank, Deposit	1,000 00	
Cash on hand April 1st, 1909	2,380 26	
		$8,967 84

OPERATING EXPENSE ACCOUNT.

Received for faucet and hydrant service ...	$2,369 50	
Received from meter service	3,959 17	
		$6,328 67

OPERATING EXPENSES.

Paid for Engineer	$1,000 00	
" " Clerk	300 00	
" " Car fares and Telephone service .	5 10	
" " Oliver Ames & Sons Corp., supplies	8 90	
" " N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. Co., freight	2 77	
" " N. Y. & B. Desp. Ex. Co., express	4 10	
" " L. B. Crockett, P. M., envelopes	11 24	
" " Gardiner Job Print Co., printing	11 75	
" " Eagle Oil & Supply Co., oil	2 15	
" " Staples Coal Co., 296,830 lbs. coal	536 68	
" " Cornelius Dailey, carting and labor	268 69	
" " Samuel J. Howes, pipe	1 00	
" " Winthrop L. Jones, drafting	10 00	
" " John K. Walsh, labor	1 00	
" " J. E. Holland & Co., brass pipe ..	99	
" " Thompson Meter Co., meters ...	208 20	
" " Sumner & Gerald Co., lead and iron pipe	46 60	

" "	Walworth Mfg. Co., pipe	24 51	
" "	Lead Lined Iron Pipe Co., pipe	85 20	
" "	E. E. Kelly, pipe	21 53	
" "	J. J. McCarthy, carriage hire ...	4 00	
" "	Robinson's Express	1 40	
			$2,555 81

REPAIRS.

Paid for	Oliver Ames & Sons Corp., supplies	41	
" "	C. F. Dahlberg & Co., fittings ...	2 25	
" "	John C. Johnson, labor	200 00	
" "	Kinney Heating & Supply Co., fittings	60	
" "	Eagle Oil & Supply Co., pipe joint composition	27 22	
" "	Stillman Carmichal Co., packing	1 29	
			$231 77
Paid interest on bonds			2,800 00
			$5,587 58
Excess of Receipts over Expenditures			$741 09

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

Original plant	$75,414 57
Extensions	16,532 70

Reservoir	10,488 40	
Merchandise	1,381 63	
Deposit in N. E. Savings Bank	2,000 00	
Cash	2,380 26	
		$108,197 56

BOND ACCOUNT.

Due August 1st, 1912	$ 5,000 00	
Due August 1st, 1917	65,000 00	
		$70,000 00

BOND HOLDERS.

Boston Five Cents Savings Bank	$40,000 00	
North Easton Savings Bank	30,000 00	
		$70,000 00

Respectfully submitted,

WM. H. AMES,
CYRUS LOTHROP,
Water Commissioners.

We have examined the accounts of the Water Commissioners and found the same correct.

CHARLES A. LEACH,
THOS. A. O'CONNOR.
Auditors.

Special Meeting held Thursday evening, June 11, 1908. James F. Burke received two votes and was elected moderator. Voted to employ Patrick Costello as Watchman and Police Officer for the ensuing year at a salary of $600. (Six hundred dollars.)

Voted that a committee of ten be appointed to see if they can secure the Shoe Factory for District purposes.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED.

WILLIAM J. HEELAN,
JOHN D. BAILEY,
WILLIAM H. AMES,
TIMOTHY J. CRAMER,
JOHN LEROY,
EVERETT E. POOL,
DENNIS RIORDAN,
FRED HANLON,
MICHAEL LYNCH,
JAMES A. BURNS.

Voted to adjourn.

JAMES A. BURNS, Clerk.

Treasurer's Report.

DR.

To amount on hand April 1st, 1908		$ 447 28
Loan		3000 00
Town Treasurer, acct. of taxes, 1906	53 00	
Town Treasurer, acct. of taxes, 1907	180 38	
Town Treasurer, acct. of taxes, 1908	8,994 12	
		$9,227 50
Interest allowed on bank balance		26 29
		$12,701 07

CR.

By Police		$1,250 00
Sidewalks		1,988 42
Street Lights		3,909 48
Loan and Interest		3,035 67
Miscellaneous, viz:		
Printing reports	$ 30 00	
Cesspool at Fire Station	15 00	
Repairing wires on clock system & dial	18 00	
Printing of warrants and ballots	4 75	

Posting warrants	4 00	
Stationery and postage	1 20	
District Officer's salaries	110 00	
		$182 95
Fire Department, viz:		
Coal and Oil	154 39	
Horse hire	1 50	
Installing storage battery system	650 00	
Installing fire alarm box	50 00	
Sundries	102 59	
Janitor	75 00	
Salaries	360 00	
		$1,393 48
Balance on hand April 1, 1909		941 07
		$12,701 07

JAMES A. BURNS, Treasurer.

Meetings.

District Meeting held Thursday evening, April 30th, 1908.

James F. Burke received two votes and was elected moderator.

Voted that the reports of the District Officers be laid on the table.

Result of ballot for District Officers	Votes
District Clerk, James A. Burns	365
Prudential Committee.	
Cornelius Lyons	229
John J. McCarthy	317
David J. O'Connell	177
Philip Wilde	149
Dennis H. Sweeney	137
Henry Holmes	1
District Treasurer.	
James A. Burns	365
Water Commissioner, 3 years.	
Oliver Ames	365
Fire Engineers.	
John Baldwin, Chief	362
Fred Hanlon, 1st Asst.	350
Patrick J. O'Neil, 2nd Asst.	345
Hjahnas Hagland	2

AUDITORS.

Charles A. Leach 364
Thomas A. O'Connor 364

Voted to raise and appropriate $3,950. Three thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars for erecting lighting and maintaining street lamps.

Voted to raise and appropriate $2,000. Two thousand dollars for building, repairing and concreting sidewalks, $300. Three hundred dollars of which is to be appropriated for the purpose of building a sidewalk on Bridge St.

Voted that a sidewalk be placed on Linden St. if said street is built.

Voted to raise and appropriate $500. Five hundred dollars to remove snow from sidewalks.

Voted to raise and appropriate $1200. Twelve hundred dollars for the purpose of employing and paying two watchmen and police officers to be under the control of the prudential committee. Voted to instruct the prudential committee to enforce the laws in the District.

Voted to appropriate $200. Two hundred dollars for miscellaneous expenses.

Voted to authorize the Treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of Taxes.

Voted to raise and appropriate $1,400. One thousand four hundred dollars for the support and maintenance of Fire Department.

Voted to accept the report of the District Officers.

Voted that a committee of seven be appointed by the chair to inquire into the feasibility of establishing a municipal electric lighting plant in the District. To report at the next annual meeting.

Committee appointed on Electric Lighting Plant:

OSCAR RANGE,
JOHN M. WILLIAMS,
SAMUEL S. EARLY,
DANIEL F. BUCKLEY,
HUGH HARLOW,
WILLIAM H. AMES,
JEREMIAH A. O'CONNOR.

Voted to adjourn.

JAMES A. BURNS, Clerk.

Prudential Committee's Report.

STREET LIGHTING.

Appropriation		$3,950 00
Paid Welsbach Street Lighting Co.		3,909 48
Unexpended.		$40 52

SNOW ACCOUNT.

Appropriation		$500 00
No Expenditure		
Unexpended		$500 00

POLICE AND WATCHMEN.

Unexpended April 1, 1908		$50 00
Appropriation		1,200 00
		$1,250 00
Paid James O'Neil	$600 00	
Paid Patrick Costello	50 00	
Paid Edward Healy	600 00	

SIDEWALKS AND STONE CURBING.

Received from Con. Dailey for 40 ft. curbing	$28 00

Received from Lawrence Dermody for 8 ft. curbing....		5 60
Appropriation		2000 00
		$2,033 60
Paid R. H. Curry for curbing 277¼ ft.....	$188 55	
Paid A. B. Anderson for setting 254½ ft. curb on Bridge St.	30 54	
Paid A. B. Anderson for setting 305 ft. curb on Lincoln St.	36 60	
Paid A. B. Anderson for 2 days' labor cutting driveway at $4.00 per day.....	8 00	
Paid A. B. Anderson for use of tools.....	1 00	
Paid Cornelius Dailey labor 476 yds. skim coating on Day St.....	166 60	
Filling and clearing concrete on Day St., 4 days, 5 hours	10 51	
Sharpening tools	12	
Cutting driveways Howland Ct.	3 00	
Sharpening tools	26	
Repairing curbing Center St. and Columbus Av., 2 days	6 00	
Cleaning Columbus Av., 7 days.....	13 00	
Labor on No. Main St., 9 hrs.....	1 83	
Labor on Pleasant St., 4 hrs.....	77	
Labor cutting, filling, etc., Lincoln St., 11 days, 3 hrs.	21 11	
Thirty loads gravel Lincoln St.....	1 50	
Labor cement sidewalk near Goward's Market	59 28	
19 bbls. Portland cement at $2.00 for same..	38 00	
14 loads gravel at 5 cts.....	70	
Labor on Sheridan St., 16 hrs.....	3 44	

For concreting, etc.	1,397 61	
		1,988 42
Unexpended		$45 18

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS.

Building cesspool at Fire Station	15 00	
Printing District Reports	30 00	
Police Alarm and Dials	18 00	
Printing and Posting of Warrants	8 75	
Postage and Stationery	1 20	
		72 95

DISTRICT OFFICERS' SALARIES.

James A. Burns, Treasurer	$50 00	
James A. Burns, Clerk	10 00	
David J. O'Connell, Prudential Committee	25 00	
John J. McCarthy, Prudential Committee	25 00	
		110 00

APPROPRIATIONS.

Street Lighting	$3,950 00	
Snow Account	500 00	
Police Service	1,200 00	
Sidewalks	2,000 00	
Miscellaneous Accounts	200 00	
		7,850 00

EXPENDED.

Street Lighting	$3,909 48	
Snow Account	.....	
Police Service	1,200	
Sidewalks	1,988 42	
Miscellaneous Accounts	72 95	

District Officers' Salaries	110 00	
		7,280 85
Unexpended		$569 15

The District Meeting will be held Thursday evening, April 29, 1909, at 7.30 o'clock.

The contract of the District with the Welsbach Street Lighting Company for lighting the streets expires during the current year so that a new contract will have to be made or some other means taken of lighting the district. The number of lamps in the District at the present time is the same as at the time of making the last report, that is, 157. It has been rumored about the District from time to time during the past year that the District has been paying for more lamps than it is actually using. One of the members of the committee, Mr. Cornelius Lyons, seems to be the principal disseminator of these rumors. He has reported to the committee that he has counted the lamps on three different occasions but has got a different number on each occasion. The balance of the committee has taken steps to verify the count and can assure the voters of the District that the count is correct.

For the first time in the history of the District it has been made the defendant in a law suit. At the last annual meeting the sum of $1200 was raised and appropriated for the purpose of employing and paying two watchmen and police officers for the ensuing year, under the direction of the Prudential Committee. The previous year the District had employed three police officers and watchmen. The Prudential Committee, acting upon its instructions from the District, and with the money it had at its disposal for this purpose employed James O'Neil and Edward Healey as watchmen and police officers for the ensuing year, each at a salary of $600, which took up the whole appropriation. On the 11th day of June, 1908, a special meeting of the voters of the District was held and the voters there

and then, acting upon article 2 of the warrant, voted "to employ Patrick Costello as watchman and police officer for the ensuing year, salary $600." Article 3 of the warrant was as follows:

"To see if the District will authorize the Prudential Committee to appropriate, borrow, or transfer money (not less than $600) for the payment of said watchman and police officer for the ensuing year."

There was a motion put before the meeting to dismiss this article, but upon a hand vote it was voted not to dismiss it. The moderator, after waiting a reasonable time and asking that some action should be taken on this article passed on to the next article, so that absolutely no action was taken under this article and there was no provision made for the payment of a watchman and police officer. There was in the District Treasury on the first day of April, 1908, $447.28. On the 30th day of April, 1908, the date of the annual meeting, there were bills due to be paid out of this amount as follows: $325.79 for street lighting for April, and $150 for police-officers and watchman for April, making a total of $475.79. So that at the date of the annual meeting the District did not have money enough to meet its obligations for April; in fact, there was a deficit of $28.51. At the date of the special meeting, June 11, 1908, there was no change in condition of the treasury except that the District had borrowed a certain sum to defray the District charges, in anticipation of the taxes of the ensuing year, by virtue of the vote of the District passed at the annual meeting. So that not only at the special meeting of June 11th was there no attempt to appropriate money for the purpose of employing Patrick Costello *but there* was no money in the treasury which could be appropriated, and inasmuch as the taxes for the ensuing year are assessed on the first day of May there could be no money raised and appropriated for the purpose of paying him. On June 17, 1908, the chairman of the Prudential Committee received the following communication:

North Easton, June 16th, 1908.

To the District Prudential Committee and Voters of the North Easton Village District:

This is to notify the Committee and voters aforesaid that I accept the position of watchman and Police Officer for day duty, for the ensuing year at a salary of six hundred dollars ($600) as voted at a Special District Meeting held in Ames Memorial Hall on Thursday evening, June 11, 1908, at 8 o'clock, in accordance with a legal call for said meeting at which meeting I was chosen to the aforesaid position at the salary aforesaid. I shall report for duty on Thursday, June 18, 1908, at 8 o'clock A. M.

(Signed) PATRICK COSTELLO.

A similar communication was received by the Treasurer of the District. Upon receiving this communication a meeting of the Prudential Committee was held at which all the members were present. At this meeting it was a unanimous vote of the committee not to employ Patrick Costello for the ensuing year and that the chairman of the Prudential Committee should reply to his communication notifying him of that fact. In consequence of which the following letter was sent to Patrick Costello on the 18th day of June, 1908.

"Boston, Mass., June 18, 1908.

Mr. Patrick Costello,
North Easton, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Your communication to the Prudential Committee, in which you notify the committee that you accept the position of watchman and police officer for the ensuing year at a salary of six hundred dollars, as voted at a special district meeting held in Ames Memorial Hall on June 11, 1908, was duly received by me; whereupon I called a meeting of the Prudential Committee and brought the matter before it. At this meeting the Prudential Committee voted not to employ

you for the ensuing year at a salary of six hundred dollars, as voted at a special district meeting held on June 11, 1908, for the reason that there is no available fund from which to pay you and that the district did not make any provision for paying you.

The committee also voted to direct me as chairman of the committee to acknowledge the receipt of your communication and give you notice of the action taken upon it.

It was also voted to request you to return to the committee the police badge and winding crank given to you by the committee at a former employment of you by the committee. In pursuance of said vote I hereby request you to return to the committee at once the badge and crank, the same being the property of the district.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) DAVID J. O'CONNELL,

Chairman of the Prudential Committee."

Afterwards the following communication was received:

"North Easton, July 3d, 1908.

Mr. Cornelius Lyons:

Dear Sir:

You will please find enclosed my bill for services as watchman and police officer for June and July which you will kindly present to the other members of the Prudential Committee for their approval. I send this to you as Secretary of the Committee to present at your meeting as it is hard sometimes to find the members of the Committee by travelling around to look for them. Whether this bill is approved or not please return it to me at your earliest convenience, and oblige,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) PATRICK COSTELLO.

BILL.

North Easton, July 31, 1908.

North Easton Village District

To Patrick Costello, Dr.

For services as Watchman and Police from June 18th to June 30th, inclusive (thirteen days)	$21 67
For services as Watchman and Police for the month of July	50 00
	$71 67

This communication being considered at a meeting of the Prudential Committee which was fully attended, by the unanimous vote of the Committee, the following letter was sent to Patrick Costello:

"Boston, Mass., August 8, 1908.

Mr. Patrick Costello,
North Easton, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Your communication to Cornelius Lyons, secretary of the Prudential Committee, and the bill for services enclosed therein was duly presented at the meeting of the Prudential Committee held last evening. I return herewith your bill without the approval of the Prudential Committee.

The committee will not approve this bill or any other bill for services rendered by you during the ensuing year for reasons fully set forth in our letter to you on June 18, 1908.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) DAVID J. O'CONNELL,

Chairman Prudential Committee.
North Easton Village District."

Shortly after this an action was brought by Patrick Costello against the inhabitants of the North Easton Village District in the

First District Court of Bristol, where he recovered a verdict against the inhabitants of the District for $175. The action has been appealed to the Superior Court where it is now pending.

The outcome of this suit is a matter of the greatest importance to this district, not for the small amount involved in this particular action but for the principle that is involved, that is whether the law will allow the district to bind itself in the manner in which it is claimed it has bound itself in this case without having any means of meeting its obligations or any means of getting the wherewithal to meet its obligations during the period within which they will become due. For this reason it is of the greatest importance to the District that it should get a decision of the highest court in the state in order to be able to guide itself in the future, not only in the matters involved in this suit but in other matters which might be of a great deal more importance and might cause the District very expensive litigation.

It has been the custom of the committee in the past, after the concreting work has been completed to go over the District and measure the work done before the final payment has been made. At a meeting of the Prudential Committee, after the concreting had been finished, the matter was brought up in the committee meeting and the committee was fixing a date that would be mutually convenient to the members to go about as was their usual custom and do this work, when one of the members of the committee, Mr. Cornelius Lyons, said that inasmuch as he was not working on the Saturday following this meeting and could devote the time to it without any trouble or hardship to himself, that he would go around with Mr. Dailey and measure the curbing and concreting. This was assented to by the other members of the committee and was done by Mr. Dailey and Mr. Lyons. Mr. Dailey had the figures at the time and his final bill was made up in acordance with those figures. This bill was approved by Mr. Lyons so that the committee assumes that

it must be all right, as we will not go so far as to say that Mr. Lyons would deliberately approve a bill to pay out the District's money where it was not due, after a personal investigation. When the time came for making up the Prudential Committee report one of the members of the Prudential Committee called upon Mr. Lyons and asked him for the detailed account of the concreting as he had made it up but was informed by Mr. Lyons that he had not made the measurements for the committee or for the District, but for his own benefit. This seems to have been the policy of this member of the committee during the whole year; that everything he has done has been for his own personal benefit and exploitation and the rest of the committee or the interest of the District do not appear to have entered into his thoughts in any way. We have been deprived of the services of this member of the committee since the trial of the action of Patrick Costello vs. Inhabitants of the North Easton Village District, although he has been notified of all meetings and requested to attend.

The insurance on the fire station building expires during the current year so that this matter must be provided for at the annual meeting. The amount of insurance carried on the building is $6000, on two policies of $3000 each. The premium for the past five years on these policies was $135.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID J. O'CONNELL,
JOHN J. McCARTHY.

Engineers' Report.

North Easton, Mass., April 1, 1909.

To the Citizens of the North Easton Village District:

The Board of Fire Engineers beg to submit the annual report of the North Easton Fire Department for the year ending March 31, 1909. There have been eleven alarms during the year. The total loss on buildings was $450.00 fully covered by insurance.

We have had the new box No. 29 installed in the school yard. As this box is so near box 26 we have connected the new one to a separate circuit.

In case either box fails to give an alarm pull in the other.

We have had installed this year by the Gamewell Fire Alarm Co. a storage battery system to take the place of our old gravity system which has been in operation since the installation of the fire alarm in the district.

We have done this in the interest of economy though the first cost may seem large.

Our old gravity system was run at an expense of about $125.00 per year, and was not as satisfactory and reliable as a thing of this kind should be.

Our new system, after first cost, requires no expense for a period of five years.

Our current for the storage battery is supplied by the Old Colony Street Railway Co. free of charge and our former large item of expense for vitriol, copper and zinc has been eliminated.

The reliability of current and other features which have added to the utility of the fire alarm service have been and will be a decided advantage to this district.

Owing to the cost of installing the storage battery this year we were obliged to postpone payment of the salaries of engineers and superintendent of fire alarm until next year.

We recommend that $1400.00 be raised and appropriated for the support of the Fire Department.

JOHN BALDWIN,
Chief Engineer.
FRED K. HANLON,
First Asst. Engineer.
P. J. O'NEIL,
Second Asst. Engineer.
FRED K. HANLON,
Clerk.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT NORTH EASTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

North Easton, Mass., April 1, 1909.

Dr.

Appropriation April, 1908	$1,400 00
	$1,400 00

Cr.

A. J. Tower, balance due on clothing	5 13
G. H. Devitt & Son, horse hire	1 50
C. Callahan Co., vitriol	22 44

William H. Clements, coal	144 21
C. Erickson, oil	4 68
Pettingill & Andrews, supplies	2 57
Gamewell F. A. & T. Co., box	50 00
Richmond & Co., vitriol	7 25
Gamewell F. A. & T. Co., battery, etc.	692 64
A. F. Eastman, repairs clock	3 00
C. Erickson, oil	5 50
Ames Store, chimneys	1 25
S. S. Ryder, care striker	6 00
A. J. McEntee, janitor	75 00
Hose Co. No. 1, salaries 15 men	180 00
H. & L. Co. No. 2, salaries 15 men	180 00
Gamewell F. A. & T. Co., fuses	7 56
H. M. Jones, labor	1 00
A. M. Kimball, repairs on alarm	3 80
Balance on hand April 1, 1909	6 52
	$1,400 00

Officers of North Easton Village District for the year ending April 1, 1909.

WATER COMMISSIONERS.

WILLIAM H. AMES, term expires 1909.
CYRUS LOTHROP, term expires 1910.
OLIVER AMES, term expires 1911.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

DAVID J. O'CONNELL.
JOHN J. McCARTHY.
CORNELIUS LYONS.

CLERK AND TREASURER.

JAMES A. BURNS.

AUDITORS.

THOMAS A. O'CONNOR.
CHARLES A. LEACH.